

## **Earthworms and Suicide<sup>© Xen-</sup>**

I occasionally walk for exercise, sun and fresh air; it is good for the constitution. I travel various routes, passing a city park, golf course and walled community, which have dedicated grounds keepers that maintain these properties; they heavily depend upon chemical fertilizers, weed and insect killers and more doing that maintenance. Interestingly, I notice the following effects at each location. Shortly after application of these poisons, often within hours, the earthworms crawl out onto sidewalk and similar paved surfaces seeking escape from their toxic environment. The pain to them is so great, these creatures without any other recourse, crawl from the poisoned soil onto dry, open surfaces exposing their delicate bodies to predators, savage summer heat and lie there dying in the sun; in other words choosing suicide to escape their painful, deadly environment. Birds, insects and other creatures that normally eat earthworms do not touch them; these animals sense the poisons; only bacteria and ants consume the dead worms. Bacteria decay them into raw elements; however, ants cut up the body, haul it to their hills and add the pieces to a compost heap that grows fungus. Ants eat the fungus. I suppose during composting the poisons become inert not affecting fungus-eating ants. Worm deaths are very high a few days after poison application and then again after next couple of rains that wash toxins deeper into the ground. Worms unaffected by initial applications seek escape from their toxic environment to same ends as predecessors: exposure death by suicide. Healthy organisms first line of defense against contaminated conditions is to cope, and adjust. Absent those, they escape to healthier location. Be that any noxious condition whether emotional, physical, chemical, or other. Coping is a healthy reaction to unhealthy surroundings to survive, but when that is not possible seeking escape up to and including suicide is a last desperate defense. Earthworms and most other creatures including humans all have the same built in survival instinct: cope, escape or die. A good current example involving humans concerns a government agency named Veterans Affairs Department. Consuming mammoth taxpayer budget of hundreds of billions of dollars annually, the only job it has is caring for US military veterans. For decades, the agency remains totally embroiled in a scandalous, growing, national, veteran suicide epidemic. Veterans via suicide openly protest their lack of care from America and toxic VA. One hundred veterans a day kill selves escaping toxic conditions to which none can cope or adjust. VA claims 70% of them not under its care never seek help; maybe that is for many good reasons considering high suicide numbers by the 30% that are under VA MHC and medical care that do seek it. Epidemic inside an epidemic are veterans, under agency care, suiciding directly on VA campuses: in clinics, hospitals, cemeteries, and the campus 'parking lot suicides.' Many of them self-destructed on premises immediately after release from MHC treatments by VA facility staff. Other veterans died by suicide off premises after being turned away or forcibly removed from clinics and hospitals when seeking care; they died by their hand hours or days later. ***VA publicly claims veterans are not seeking care. What do you call the aforewritten, chopped liver?!*** What do you call it when veterans openly tell clinic, hospital or other VA staff s/he is suicidal and is berated, psychologically abused, minimized, ridiculed, ignored, told to get out or forcibly removed then put on a 'do not treat list' or 'security list' as a hostile or troublesome patient. Why does no one bother to get the patient's story, too? Dead vets cannot talk to tell it after a suicide. Meanwhile, US mass media remains silently stupid. VA documents its side only, which is always in the agency's favor, then closes the case. A lie is a lie even when everyone believes it – Adolf Hitler. The agency causes many of these onsite suicides by irresponsibly prescribing and drugging veterans with dangerous antipsychotics and other medicines intermixing very bad side effects, then before releasing the patient MHC staff in isolated treatment rooms, hospital wards or other private settings mentally and psychologically terrorize them into suicidal psychosis. S/he is now in a hysterical psychotic breakdown, which is a form of induced insanity, and desperately seeks to end their pain using whatever is expedient to do so. In one case, a patient released, notwithstanding family pleas not to do so "because he is a grave danger to self"—died days later when a family member found him dead, hanging by a rope in the garage. There is reason for all these on and off campus veteran suicides; **VA created and perpetuates the epidemic.** The agency tries to sidetrack this into a political issue blaming guns; a gun is only one tool of infinite means to the same

end: death. Nice try but no banana. The agency's attempts to brier patch and red herring onus away from it, fails. What about the veteran who set self on fire in a monk style self-immolation sitting at a VA facility front entrance? When that happens in Russia on *Red Square* or China on *Tiananmen Square* protesting tyranny, Americans never hear the end of it from mass media. When it happens on front steps of a US government building protesting that same tyranny – silence, before a quick switch to some other cheap sleaze diversion for your viewing enjoyment folks, now a word from our sponsors... '*Choose VA for the benefits you deserve.*' What about the endless suicides existing in plain sight recorded as 'other causes' hiding this country's shame? Ad infinitum, ad nauseam... All aforewritten and more leads to one single point for ongoing veteran suicide epidemic in America: VA failure in Toto. Veterans in seeking to escape a toxic environment are killing selves as an ultimate protest to being subjugated to the worst healthcare system in America. Privatization works and very well; over 90% of US veterans do not use VA at all. Choosing instead to pay for their healthcare via same methods the rest of this country uses, which means not using benefits they earned in favor of choosing better while paying double or more for that choice. So why not take the money VA wastes and give it to each vet to buy his or her healthcare and benefits they earned. VA does more to support people who never served or saw a military uniform than those who did. Only 50-cents of every five VA budget dollars goes to veteran care. US veterans are Americans like the rest of you; they paid more in dues to this country than nearly all American's combined, yet - are treated as dog shit under a doormat, lower class citizens, in being denied the same freedoms to choose medical care and benefits, *which, like Social Security - they earned*, same as the rest of you? Some trapped veterans manage to cope with this toxic dysfunctional government agency; however, too many more cannot and end the pain taking their lives like those earthworms, via suicide as protest of final resort. Why do American's not hear their screams for help? With existence of myriad, sundry US 'veteran helping' agencies and charities all claiming to assist them, why are veterans literally suffering and dying in this country from lack of help?! This self-centered country of 'me only' Americans have never been troubled when their personal choices infringe upon or even harm the well being of their fellow citizens until consequences boomerang back on them. So maybe the Veterans Affairs dysfunction is really only a reflection of the USA as a whole. A phony, hypocritical nation that is all for plastic flag patriotism, sacrifice and duty so long as someone else pays the price for their free ride and lunch on the gravy trains... War is good business – invest someone else's sons and daughters for our benefit. Who cares right? Until one day, it all returns to you and yours in kind.

### ***First They Came:***

*First they came for the ~~Native Americans~~, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a ~~Native American~~.*

*Then they came for the ~~Jews~~, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a ~~Jew~~.*

*Then, they came for the ~~Soldiers and Veterans~~, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a ~~Soldier or Veteran~~.*

*Then they came for you and me—and there was no one left to speak for you **or me**.*

*Think about that – if you will not speak or fight for you, who will?*

*They always come for the useful idiots with no place to hide – dead last.*